

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 GSA-01

INT-05 OPIC-03 STR-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /039 R

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R 061913Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USINJC, EMIN, ETRA, IN

SUBJECT: MICA

REF: NEW DELHI 4473

1. MARSHALL OF US MICA INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (MIA)
INFORMED DEPTOFF HE HEARD LAST WEEK FROM INDIAN MICA
INDUSTRY SOURCE THAT GOI WAS PLANNING TO DELINK SMALLER
SIZES OF MICA SPLITTINGS (INCLUDING SCRAP AND BLOCK MICA)
FROM 40-60 SHARING REQUIREMENT EFFECTIVE APRIL 5.
DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CONFIRMATION OF THIS
INFORMATION.

2. GSA HAS AGAIN CONTACTED DEPARTMENT CONCERNING ITS
SEPTEMBER 1975 PROPOSAL TO INCREASE FY1976 MUSCOVITE MICA
SPLITTINGS DISPOSAL PROGRAM BY 4,649,000 POUNDS. AS
EMBASSY AWARE, DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO THIS PROPOSAL HAS
BEEN DEFERRED PENDING MIA ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING
DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE AFFECTED INDIAN MICA SUPPLIES TO US.

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DURING OCTOBER 14, 1975 MICA DISPOSAL CONSULTATIONS WITH

INDIAN EMBASSY COMMERCIAL MINISTER DIXIT (REPORTED IN STATE 245775), DIXIT RECOGNIZED POSSIBLE NEED FOR SOME ADDITIONAL GSA RELEASES PENDING RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND FILLING UP OF INDIA-US MICA PIPELINE.

DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING CONCURRING IN ADDITIONAL GSA RELEASE OF APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION POUNDS THIS FISCAL YEAR, WHICH WOULD REPRESENT A SUBSTANTIAL CUTBACK FROM 4,649,000 LBS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY GSA. BEFORE DOING SO, HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON GOI REACTION; MORE SPECIFICALLY, ON GOI MOVES TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING US-INDIA MICA ISSUES.

3. DEPTOFF INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH MARSHALL POSSIBILITY OF DEPARTMENT CONCURRING IN ADDITIONAL GSA RELEASE AS OUTLINED ABOVE. AFTER CHECKING WITH MIA MEMBERSHIP, MARSHALL ADVISED AGAINST ADDITIONAL DISPOSALS AT THIS TIME, SAYING INDIANS MIGHT VIEW SUCH ACTION AS BAD FAITH ON OUR PART, AND THAT MOVE ON OUR PART TO INCREASE DISPOSALS MIGHT RESULT IN CHANGE OF GOI POSITION ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES, INCLUDING 40-60 SHARING ISSUE. HOWEVER, MARSHALL AWARE THAT MICA CONSUMERS AND NON-MIA MEMBERS ARE PRESSING GSA FOR INCREASED DISPOSALS. KISSINGER

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